

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 8, 43, and 51 have been amended.

Claims 60-68 were previously added in the non-compliant amendment and therefore are included above in this corrected amendment.

Claims 9-10, 44-45, and 52-53 were previously cancelled in the prior non-compliant amendment, and therefore are included above in this corrected amendment. Claims 17-19, 30, and 41 were previously cancelled in a prior amendment.

No claims have been withdrawn.

Claims 1-8, 11-16, 20-29, 31-40, 42-43, 46-51, and 54-68 are currently pending in the application.

SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTIONS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment states that the listing of claims does not include the text of all pending claims...” Specifically, the continuation sheet states that “All limitations of previous presented claims (07/25/05) has not been addressed. Claims 8, 43, and 51 do not address all limitations previously presented.”

In the previously filed non-compliant amendment, the mark-ups to Claims 8, 43, and 51 inadvertently underlined the previously included feature from the claims as of the 7/25/05 amendment, namely that “a type of connection between two or more network devices” that had been previously included in Claims 8, 43, and 51 was underlined, thereby incorrectly indicating that that feature had been added, which was not the case since this feature was originally presented in Claims 8, 43, and 51 in the amendment of 7/25/05. The Applicant regrets this inadvertent error in the marking-up of Claims 8, 43, and 51.

In the corrected claim amendment above, this feature of Claims 8, 43, and 51 is no longer underlined to indicate that this feature was previously included in Claims 8, 43, and 51, and thereby indicate that this feature is unchanged by the corrected amendment above. As a result, the corrected amendment above now correctly reflects the additions to Claims 8, 43, and 51 while indicating that the feature “a type of connection between two or more network

devices” is unchanged. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the corrected amendment above now addresses all limitations of the previously presented claims of 7/25/05, and thus that the corrected amendment above complies with 37 CFR 1.121.

Pursuant to item “2” under the “TIME PERIODS FOR FILING A REPLY TO THIS NOTICE,” because box 4 is checked, the correction required and being supplied herein is only the **corrected section** of the non-compliant amendment, namely the amendment to the claims. The remarks and arguments with respect to the prior art are not affected by this corrected claims amendment.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate. After entry of the amendments, further examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

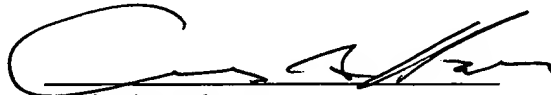
To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on April 6, 2006 by Ray Reynolds